



50 REASONS WHY WE'RE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS, COMMUNITY

THE SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROUD OF ITS STUDENTS AND STAFF, PARENTS AND FAMILIES, AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES OF BLAINE, SPRING LAKE PARK, AND FRIDLEY. WITH NEARLY 5,000 STUDENTS, WE ARE PERSONAL IN SIZE, YET EXTRA-LARGE IN OPPORTUNITY.

WORLD-CLASS LEARNING COMMUNITY OF CHOICE

Our list is larger, but here's a variety pack of 50 of the reasons why we are proud—and why we think you should be proud—of the Spring Lake Park School District.

1 Woodcrest Elementary is one of only three K-12 schools in the state to earn a Spotlight on Achievement Award for excellence and success in unique curriculum, student support programs, and staff development that greatly impacted student achievement.

2 A Westwood Intermediate School student was first in the nation in both the World Math Day and World Spelling Day competitions. Westwood Intermediate 5th graders were 3rd in the nation in the online World Math Day competition.

3 Teams from Opportunities in Emergency Care (OEC), our medical magnet program, placed 1st and 4th in the nation in the 2011 International Rescue and Emergency Care Association Competition.

4 Westwood Middle School 6th graders placed 3th in the nation in the 2011 WordMasters, a national language arts competition. One student was 1st in the nation in the first round.

5 Nearly 95 percent of Spring Lake Park High School graduating seniors have plans in place for two-year or four-year colleges and universities or the military.

6 National experts have identified District 16 as a model site for engaging staff in consistent high quality professional learning experiences to improve student learning.

7 Our middle school and high school were of only 12 secondary schools in the U. S. selected to participate in a two-year collaborative professional learning network aimed at closing the learning gap.

8 Spring Lake Park High School had one National Merit Scholarship winner, two Finalists, six Commended students, and another recognized in the Black Americans category.

9 The Spring Lake Park School District earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded by the Association of School Business Officials-International each of the past four years.

10 Over \$60,000 in scholarships are awarded annually by local service organizations, businesses, and individuals to one-third of our high school seniors.

11 Every staff member –teacher, cook, principal, secretary, para, custodian, administrator— is committed to making positive, lasting connections with our students, and to providing a world-class welcoming environment and customer service for parents and the community.

12 All teachers participated in "Creating Meaningful Relationship with Students" study groups to further personalize instruction and meet the needs of every student who walks through our doors.

13 2011-12 will be a pilot year for a Spanish Dual Immersion Preschool Program at Woodcrest Elementary to serve both English and Spanish-speaking children.

14 Our elementary-level Spanish Immersion Program –a school-within-a-school at the Westwood Complex—is extremely popular; 98 percent of parents would recommend it to other parents.

15 Every teacher is engaged in professional learning and development to better personalize instruction for each student, in each classroom, in each school in the district.

16 The community-based Panther Foundation has given over \$430,000 to the Spring Lake Park School District through grant awards and funding of special projects since 2004.

17 Twenty-six elementary students were tops in the nation with perfect scores in four recent national academic Olympiads in a single year.

18 Special Education referrals decreased by an amazing 50 percent in less than three years with the implementation of our System of Interventions.

19 All schools have been recently expanded, completely remodeled, and are a source of great community pride. The Minnesota Construction Association awarded its top Award of Excellence to Northpoint Elementary School and Spring Lake Park High School.

20 A majority of our teachers have successfully implemented innovative 21st Century technologies in their classrooms over the past three years, supported by their participation in year-long study groups.

21

Innovative volunteer programs utilizing community and high school mentors at the elementary level have helped 96 percent of kindergartners reach their benchmark goals.

22

Learning Alternatives Community School, a Minnesota Alternative Program of the Year, utilizes project-based learning to address real world problems and issues.

23

Our Early Childhood Program was awarded a \$40,000 Hand-in-Hand grant to improve school readiness, health, and the well-being of students whose first language is not English.

24

The Pantherettes Dance Team was 6th in the state (and Academic Champ) in 2011, 4th in 2010, third in 2009 and 2008; and state champions in 2007, 2006, and 2005.

25

Six of Minnesota's ten top-scoring high school students in a recent International Chemistry Olympiad qualifying test were from Spring Lake Park High School.

26

In a single year, Academic, Section or Conference honors earned in football, girls tennis, gymnastics, and cross country teams; state appearances in track, wrestling, swimming and diving, and dance team; section or conference championships in volleyball, boys tennis, boys track, softball, and dance.

27

The district hosted a two-day workshop on Habits of Mind thinking skills which featured nationally and internationally recognized experts, as well as an academy for principals from across the state to develop their leadership skills. Middle school uses Habits of Mind with all students.

28

Teachers across the district collaborate weekly in Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams focused on student outcomes, assessments, instruction, and results.

29

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) program received the 2011 National High School Career Connections Award.

30

A new, jazzed-up K-12 music curriculum program will make music accessible to all, using 21st Century technology tools for improvising, creating and recording music, and solving musical problems.

31

MyPanther Apps, powered by Google, are available to all staff and secondary students.

32

Six students won nine state-level medals at the SkillsUSA-Minnesota competition showcasing high school and college technical education students.

33

Spring Lake Park High School academic teams had two 1st place awards, a 2nd, and a 3rd in the state Health Occupations of America competition.

34

All teachers engage in continuous professional learning opportunities focused on differentiation, authentic instruction, and building meaningful relationships.

35

Westwood Middle School does much to support the importance of a high school diploma and of college readiness, including taking all 8th graders—that's over 300—on an annual field trip to the University of Minnesota.

36

Three coordinators serve the needs of K-12 students in the well-respected Gifted Services Department.

37

All principals are instructional leaders who are in classrooms each week to support and acknowledge high quality instruction and student learning.

38

100 percent of Spring Lake Park teachers met their individual and professional learning community Q Comp goals.

39

The high school provides each 9th and 10th grader with a small core group of teachers to work with all year long. Teachers get to know the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student, resulting in a more personalized experience.

40

We're the first school district in the state to implement the Practical Assessment Exploration System which increases real life skills in Transition Students.

41

Our schools have computer labs and laptop carts; classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art instructional technology. All preschool through fifth grade classrooms have whiteboards or SMART Boards.

42

"The VOICE," a high school peer education theater group, received an award for promoting mental health awareness in Anoka County.

43

All preschool-12th grade students participate in learning experiences that foster higher-order thinking, substantive conversations, and connections to the world beyond the classroom.

44

Communication includes a new (in Fall 2011) website. E-News for information and alerts. cable TV and web viewing of School Board meetings, topical video programming, blogs and Wikis, social media, publications, and more.

45

SLP alums Troy Merritt won the PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament; Katelin Rains earned three national pole vault records at Minnesota State University-Mankato; David Backes had a game-winning goal at the XXI Winter Olympic Games and was a 2011 NHL All-Star; Derek Domino was signed by the Denver Broncos.

46

Responsive Classroom practices at the elementary level emphasize social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong, close, and safe school community.

47

Westwood Middle School offers accelerated math and honors classes in all core subjects.

48

The inaugural year (2011-12) of the North Metro Performing Arts Series will bring world-class entertainment to our community at the Spring Lake Park High School Fine Arts Center.

49

Staff take extreme pride in maintaining clean, safe, and welcoming schools and grounds.

50

And, finally, School District 16 is extremely proud of its supportive school community that values education.

Spring Lake Park School District 16 encompasses all of the City of Spring Lake Park, half of the City of Blaine, and a portion of the City of Fridley.

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